

# Letter

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## from the Chairman

On behalf of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission, (PERAC), I am pleased to present this Annual Report on the status of the Massachusetts Contributory Retirement Systems. More than 300,000 public employees, retirees, and their families rely upon the Commonwealth's 106 public pension systems for the retirement benefits earned in public service. PERAC was created in 1996 and is charged with a variety of tasks, including the oversight of these pension systems. Since its inception, PERAC has received the support of the Governor, the leadership of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Joint Committee on Public Service. That support has been gratifying for all of us and has played a vital role in our success.

I must also acknowledge the commitment of my fellow Commissioners. State Auditor Joseph DeNucci has provided insight and leadership to the Commission. His experience as a regulator has guided the Commission in its oversight role. Secretary of Administration and Finance Charles Baker has been a strong voice for responsible financing of the retirement systems. His intelligence and wit are irreplaceable. Commissioner Ken Donnelly, an active firefighter with more than twenty years of service, brought his thorough knowledge of retirement law to the Commission. His experience in this area has proven to be an invaluable asset to his fellow Commissioners. Commissioner Don Marquis, Arlington's Town Manager, heightened the Commission's awareness of the impact of retirement issues on municipal operations. Commissioner John Abbott, an active police officer, has offered insight into the unique retirement concerns of the law enforcement community. Commissioner Dianne Hyde Russell, serving as the private sector representative, has contributed her expertise in personnel matters and investments.

In addition, I would also like to acknowledge Executive Director Stalnaker and his staff for their hard work and dedication to the Commission's mission and varied responsibilities.

During the course of my service as a Commissioner, I have been most impressed with the efforts of the retirement boards—the front line in the protection of public employees' interests. The staff of these boards have administered our complex pension law in a professional and sensitive manner. The excellent investment performance and improvement in funding status revealed in this report are a testament to the efforts of the retirement boards. In fact, any success that the Commission has achieved is a result, not only of our own work, but also of the cooperation we have received from the boards. For that we are most grateful.

Elizabeth E. Laing, *Chairman*